

# General Information

## Demographic Profile

### Community and Schools

Shrewsbury is principally a residential town with a population of 31,000; however, there is a significant amount of industry and business in the community. The public school system consists of one early childhood center, four elementary schools, two middle school (grades 5/6, and 7/8) and one high school (grades 9 through 12).

### Location

Shrewsbury is located in central Massachusetts, five miles east of Worcester and thirty-five miles west of Boston.

### High School

Shrewsbury High is a four-year comprehensive high school housing approximately 1440 students. The school is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

## How to Plan a Program

Planning an educational program is an ongoing process and should involve as many people as possible, including the student, parents, teachers and guidance counselors.

**1. Work Together to Select Courses** - Course selection marks the beginning of responsible decision-making for many students. Parents should be involved in giving both help and direction as a student works through his/her decision.

**2. Gather Information** - A major part of the process of course selection involves the gathering of information. Classroom teachers and guidance counselors are valuable resources at this stage.

This Course Selection booklet has been prepared with YOU in mind. Read it first to obtain information on the entire high school curriculum and then read the course selection booklet a second time, more carefully, to obtain specific information on those courses which are either required for next year or those in which you have a particular interest and will elect.

The classroom teacher has in-depth knowledge of the content of various courses taught within his/her department. In addition, he/she is usually aware of the level of expectation within each course. Knowing you as a student and the kind of work of which you are capable, your teacher can make valid recommendations as to which courses to take within the department.

The guidance counselor has a broad overview of the entire curriculum. Besides having a strong sense of the student's performance and ability level, the counselor is very much aware of courses necessary to fulfill graduation requirements. The guidance counselor also is able to provide good advice about the kind of program and courses which will be helpful as you prepare yourself to pursue post-high school plans, whether these be

a four or two year college, a technical school or immediate entry into the world of work. A student conference can be arranged by coming to the guidance office to make an appointment. A parent-counselor conference can be arranged by calling the school at 841-8813. Final placement can be discussed with the appropriate counselor and the Department Director. **Not all student choices can be accommodated within scheduling constraints and school placement policies. Final decisions on placement will be made by the principal.**

## Graduation Requirements

To graduate from Shrewsbury High School, a student must have completed a minimum of 105 credits. A semester of work in a course that meets daily gives 2.5 credits. A full year's work in a course gives 5 credits; trimester courses are given 2.5 credits. The minimum graduation requirements are as follows:

20 credits	English
15 credits	Social Sciences
15 credits	Math
15 credits	Science
15 credits	Health/Physical Education
2.5 credits	Arts
22.5 credits	Electives

Additionally, students must pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to qualify for graduation.

Within the stated credits, students must take the following courses:

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English 9	English	10	English 11
English 12			
World Civilization II	American History	American Studies	Physical Education
Wellness/Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	By the People

## Promotion Policy

In order to continue with the class, students must earn the following credits:

Sophomore	21
Junior	45
Senior	73

Students repeating freshman year may be promoted to the sophomore year at the end of the first semester if they have earned 33 credits. Those students repeating sophomore year may be promoted to the junior year at the end of the first semester if they have earned 59 credits. Students repeating junior year may be promoted to the senior year by earning 89 credits by the end of the first semester.



**Class Rank** An official class rank is determined at the end of Grade 11 and at the end of the first and second semesters of Grade 12. Class rank is calculated from the total number of quality points a student earns. Quality points are determined by the grades received in the course taken and the level of the courses.

**Course Commitment** Allocation of staff, rooms and the number of sections offered are determined by the number of student requests received for a specific course; therefore students selecting full year courses are committed to remain in the course for the entire year. Exceptions are permitted under certain circumstances. Also students selecting semester courses are committed to remain in these courses for the semester scheduled.

**Recommended Programs** The “best” schedule is the one which includes a comprehensive educational plan linked with career awareness and exploration. SHS offers students applied academic courses, work place and school-based learning, occupational and technical courses, field trips and internships. Our curriculum will effectively prepare students to live and work in a highly technical society through meaningful educational and career preparation.

### **College Preparatory Program**

As suggested earlier, guidance counselors can provide sound advice about an appropriate college preparatory program. Generally speaking, you should enroll for the most rigorous level of classes that you can handle. Each year you should be taking “major” courses in the liberal arts: English, mathematics, languages, social studies and science. In addition to these solid academic courses, you should also take the opportunity to broaden your scope and satisfy your interests by taking electives in the areas of family and consumer science, art, music, technology education and instructional technologies.

### **College preparatory academic courses should include:**

- English-courses in composition and literature which will include the development of reading, writing and comprehension skills.
- Mathematics-courses in algebra, geometry, advanced math.  
Students considering a major in math, science or engineering should consider a fourth year of math, including calculus.
- Science-courses in biology, chemistry or physics.
- History/Social Sciences including challenging advanced electives in human and social development.
- Foreign Language-two to three years of the same foreign language are the minimum language requirements. More are strongly recommended. Highly selective colleges look favorably upon four or five years.
- Related Electives-to broaden the depth and scope of student’s educational background. Examples of these courses include child development, art, music, technical education, T.V. or computers.

### **Two-Year Technical/Junior/Community College**

Students planning post-high school education at a two-year college should follow the same prescribed program as for the four-year college.

### **School-to-Career**

Students planning to join the work force full-time immediately upon high school graduation, in an entry level position, should plan their high school program not only to satisfy graduation requirements, but also to take advantage of courses which will provide marketable work-based competencies.

Courses from family and consumer science, technology education, instructional technologies, music and art departments are strongly recommended. Students should also consider enrolling in the Jobs for Bay State Graduates Program or the School/Business Connection.

### **Computer Access**

Shrewsbury High School embraces fully the guiding principle that technology enhances teaching and learning. In support of this belief, SHS has increased classroom access to technology and maintains several computing areas. Access can be found in the media center, computer labs and teachers have access to department laptop carts. These labs are scheduled by teachers and/or departments in order to teach entire classes a particular application or to hold workshops. Daily afterschool access is available in the computer labs until 2:30 p.m. and in the media until 3:00 p.m. Additionally, we provide first floor computer lab access to students Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Adjustment Counselors**

Adjustment Counseling Services are available to all students in order to help them cope better with personal issues which may jeopardize healthy adolescent development. Appointments may be made by the students themselves directly with the adjustment counselor or through school administrators, teachers, the school nurse, parents or the guidance staff.

#### **Adjustment Counselors**

Dr. David Curran 841-8800 x2025

Dr. Marc Spisto 841-8850

**Student Services**

Guidance Counseling services, in both individual or group settings are available for every student in the school. These services include:

- assistance with educational planning
- interpretation of test scores
- school-to-career information and preparation
- study helps
- help with home, school and/or social concerns

**Special Education Services**

The special education program at Shrewsbury High School is designed to serve students in grades nine through twelve and individuals to age 22. Students may be referred for evaluation by a teacher, parent, social worker, and/or family physician. Placement in special education programs is determined by the special education TEAM which may include the parents, student, regular and special education teachers and other individuals as needed. For further information regarding procedures and programs, please contact: Special Education Department Director, Caroline Gilmore 841-8828.

**Library Media Services**

The Library Media Program at Shrewsbury High School provides experiences which help students become independent, self-sufficient learners and researchers by offering instruction and guidance in the use of our extensive reference collection, both in print and electronic media. The program also fosters an enjoyment of literature and an appreciation of varied literary genre.

Research activities are embedded into the curriculum where the media specialist and the teacher work collaboratively to assist the students. Students also visit the media center during directed study periods to work independently or in small groups. The media center and multimedia function presentation room are available for students' daily use. The Media Center is open daily until 3:00 p.m.

**Media Center Staff**

Carolann Costello, Media Specialist 841-8821

Dawn Vigliatura, Media Assistant

**School Nurse**

The school nurses strengthen and facilitate the educational process by improving and protecting the health of children. The major focus of school nursing services is the prevention of illness and disability, and the early detection and correction of health problems.

**School Nurses**

Judy DeFalco 841-8822

Pam Johnson 841-8768